

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink jet recording apparatus comprising ink mist collecting means for collecting ink mist generated when recording means discharges ink in order to form an image on a recording medium, wherein the ink mist collecting means is not operated during the recording means forms the image and is operated after the recording means finishes forming the image.
2. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising holding means for holding the recording means in such a way that the recording means is movable in a forward direction and in a backward direction, wherein the recording means discharges ink only when the holding means moves in the forward direction, and wherein the ink mist collecting means is operated only when the holding means moves in the backward direction.
3. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising holding means for holding the recording means in such a way that the recording means is movable in a forward direction and in a backward direction, wherein the recording means discharges ink when the holding means moves in the forward direction and when the holding means moves in the backward direction, and wherein the ink mist

collecting means is operated when the holding means reverses the direction of movement from the forward direction to the backward direction and from the backward direction to the forward direction.

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4. The ink jet recording apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the ink mist collecting means has a blower for generating an airflow.

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5. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the ink mist collecting means has a suction box provided with a suction nozzle extending toward a region between the recording means and the recording medium, and wherein the blower is disposed in the suction box and is operated so as to suck air in the region between the recording means and the recording medium into the suction box.

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6. The ink jet recording apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the ink mist collecting means has electrostatic force generating means for generating an electrostatic force.

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7. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the ink mist collecting means has a suction box provided with a suction nozzle extending

toward a region between the recording means and the recording medium, and wherein the electrostatic force generating means is disposed in the suction box.

5           8. An ink jet recording apparatus comprising:  
          holding means for holding recording means that discharges ink to record an image on a recording medium;

          ink mist collecting means that collects ink  
10   mist generated when the recording means discharges the ink; and

          a controller that does not operate the ink mist collecting means when the recording means discharges the ink and operates the ink mist collecting means  
15   when the recording means does not discharge the ink.

          9. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the recording means alternates between a state where it continuously discharges the  
20   ink and a state where it does not discharge the ink, and wherein the controller operates the ink mist collecting means when the recording means is in the state where it does not discharge the ink.

25           10. The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the holding means holds the recording means in such a way that the recording

means is movable along the surface of the recording medium, and wherein the recording means discharges the ink while it is moving.